

Suisun Marsh Program Overview

Prepared for:

State Water Resources Control Board

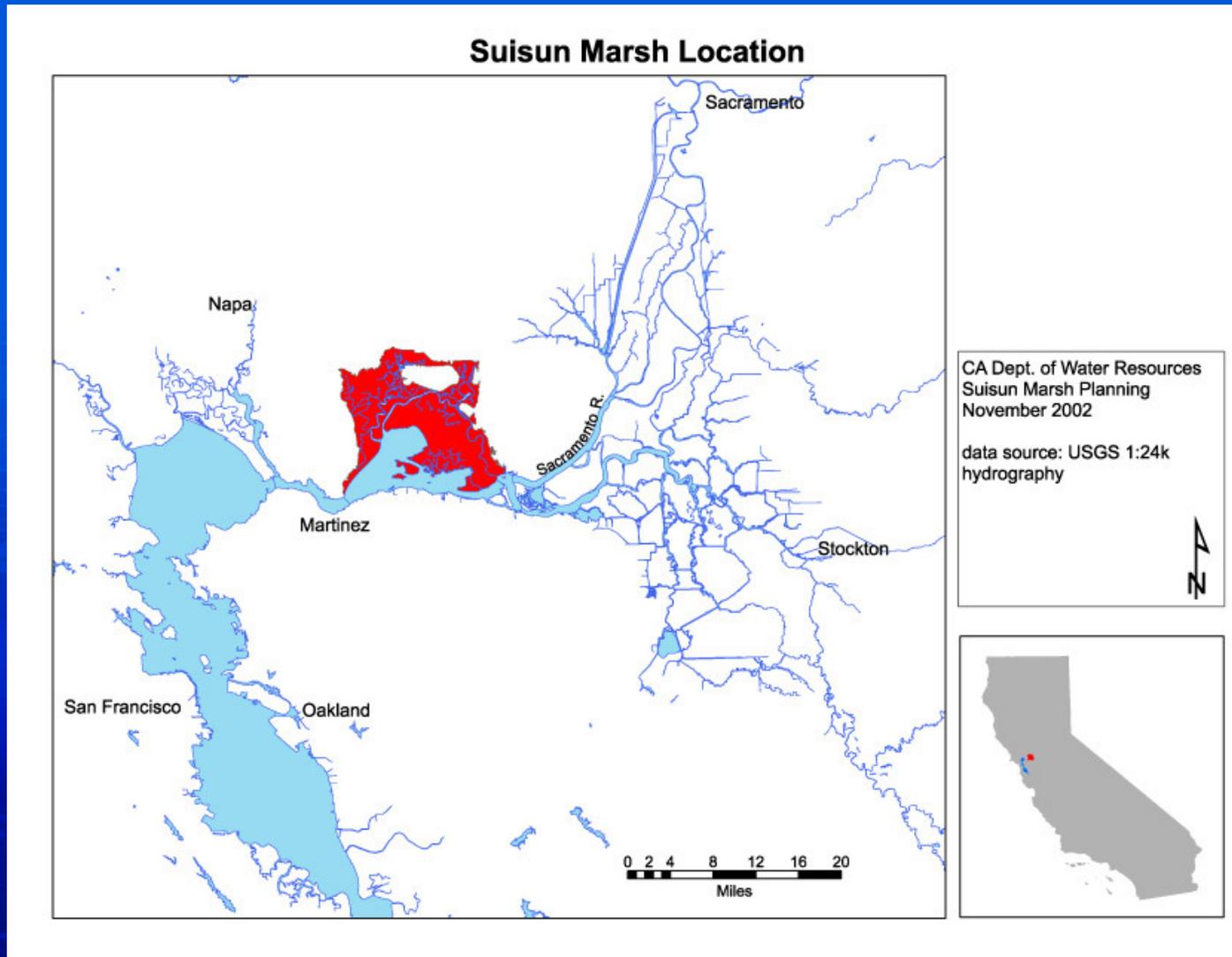
Prepared by

Paul Massera

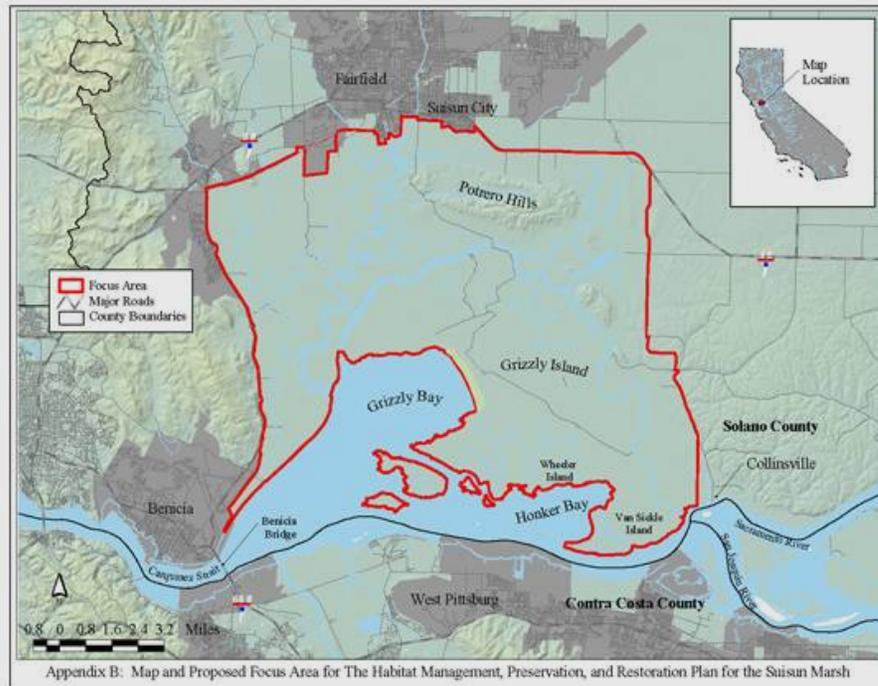
California Department of Water Resources

March 19, 2008

Location

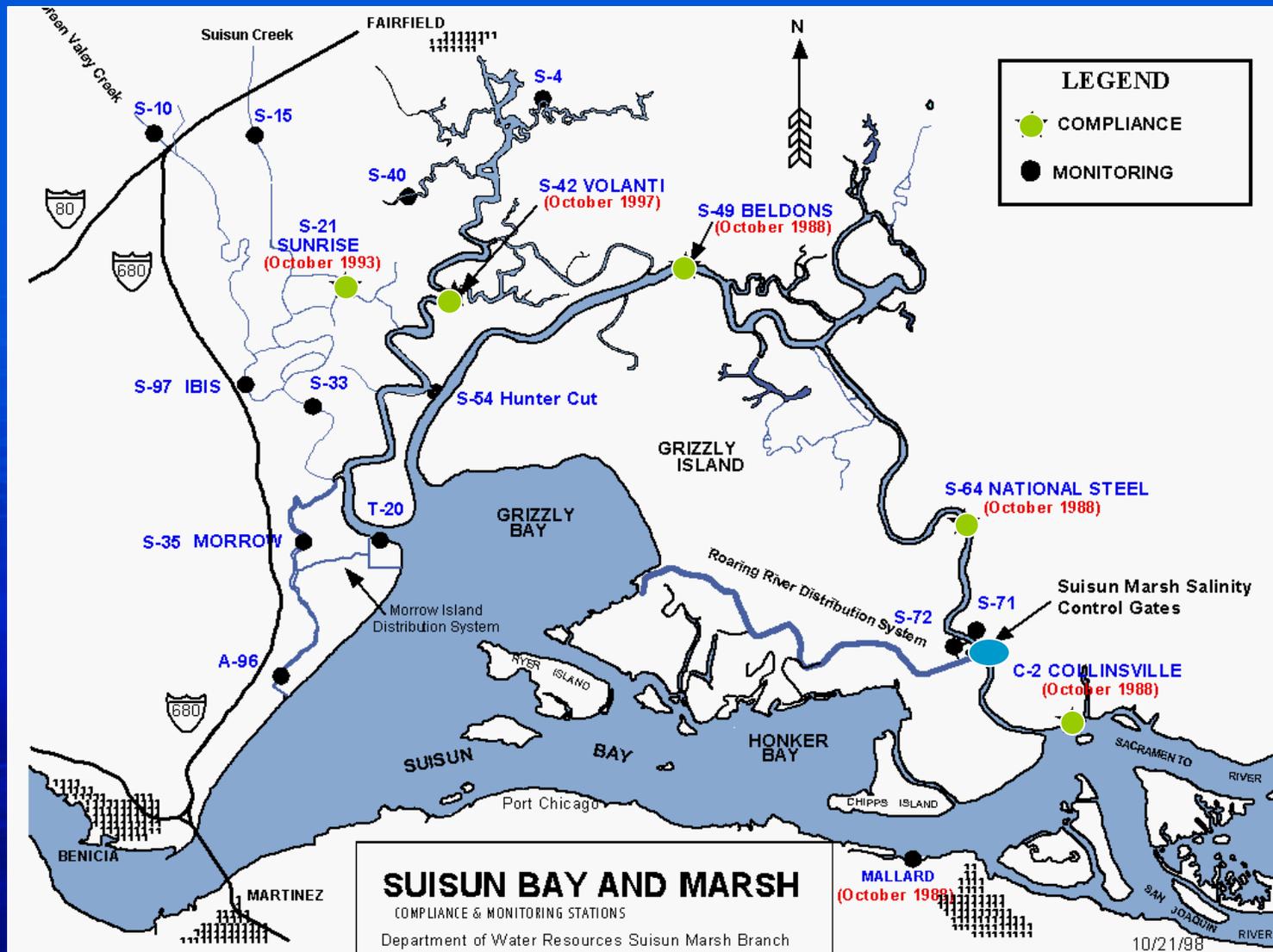


Project Area



- 52,000 acres of seasonal non-tidal (managed) wetlands
- 6,300 acres of tidal wetlands
- 27,700 acres upland grassland
- 30,000 acres bays and sloughs

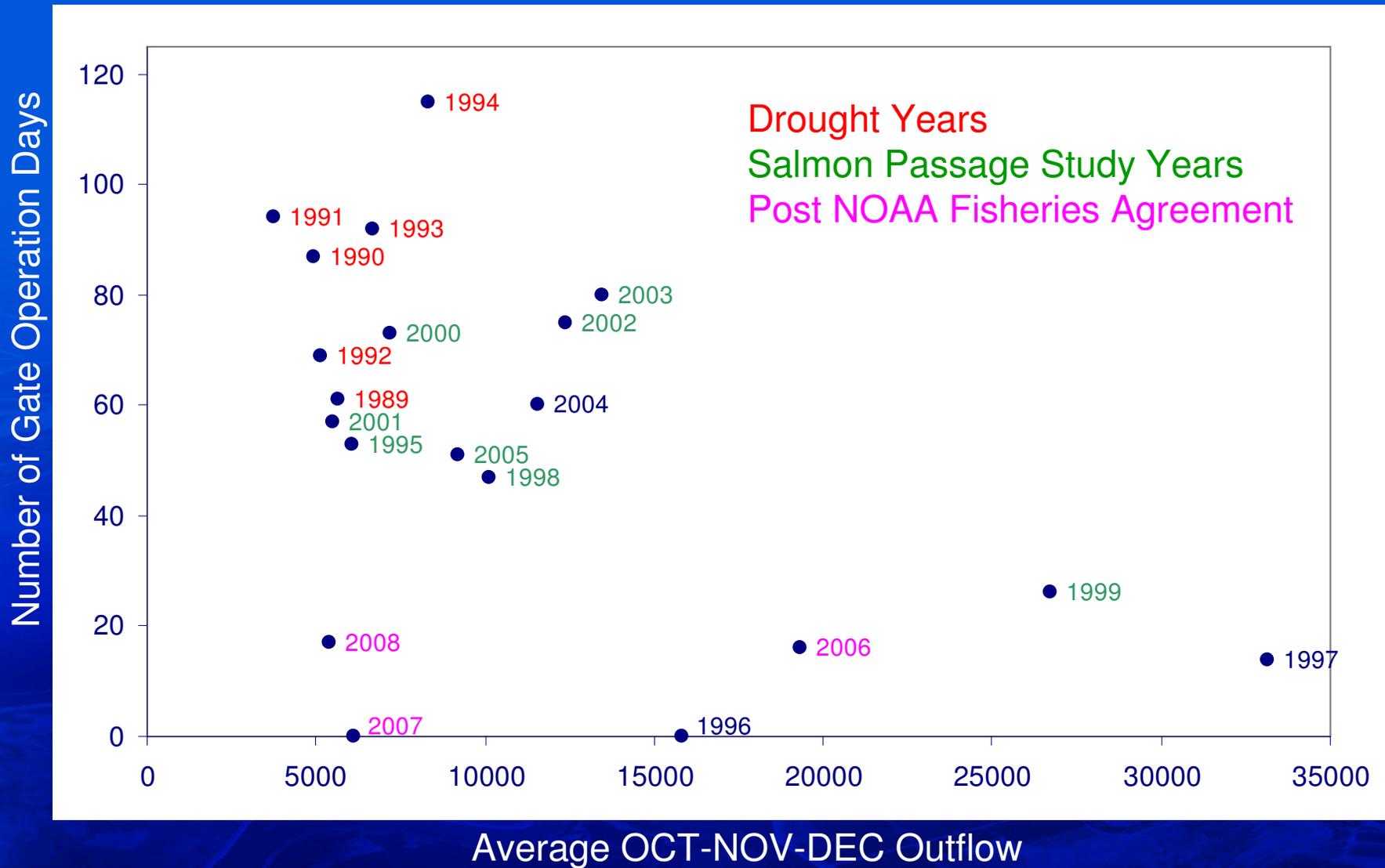
Facilities



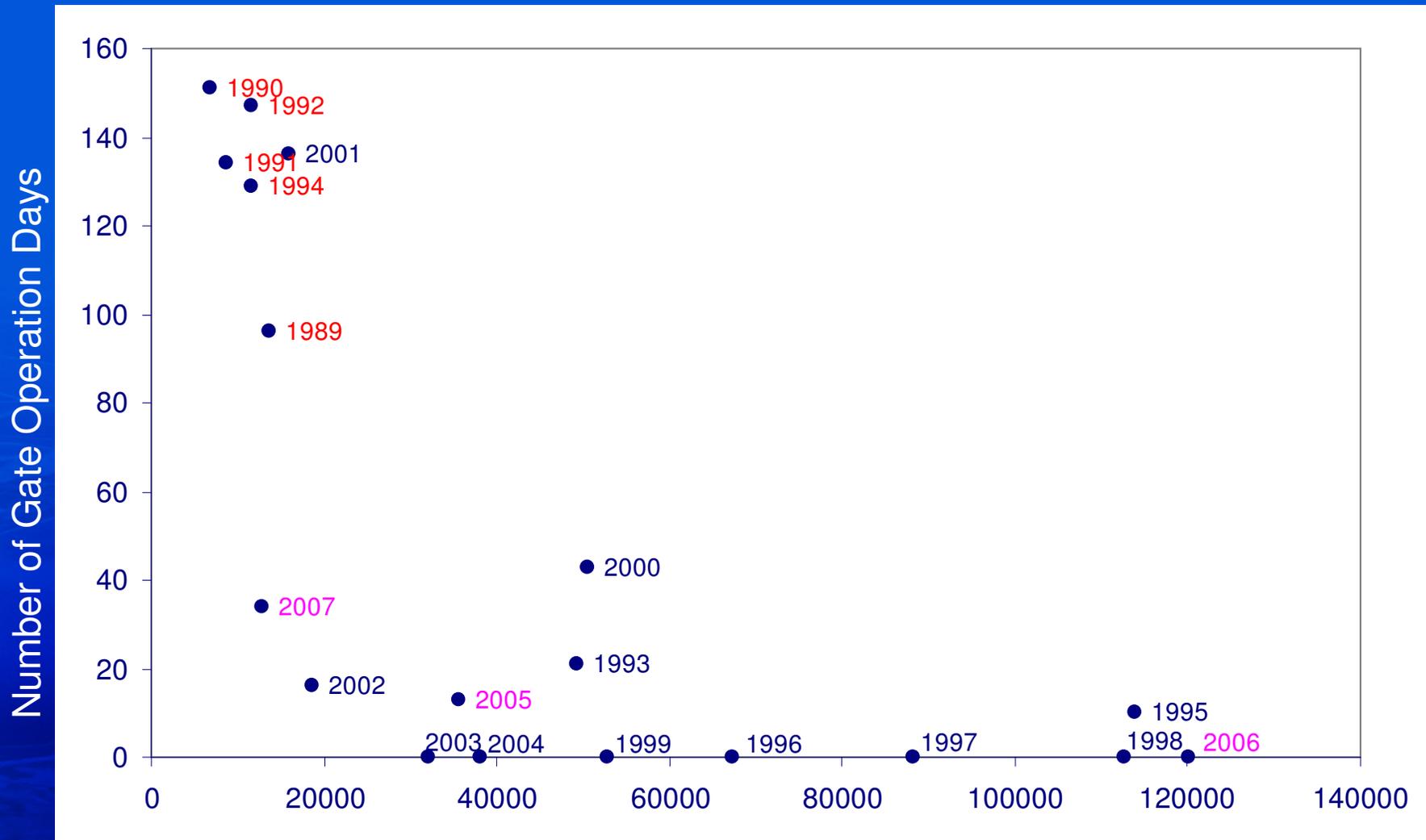
Salinity Control Gates



SMSCG Operation Frequency Versus Outflow



SMSCG Operation Frequency Versus Outflow



Average Jan through May Outflow

Initial Suisun Marsh Program Purpose

- Mitigate salinity impacts from State and Federal Water Projects (due to reduced Delta outflow)

Agreements, Obligations and Planning

- Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement (SMPA)
- Regulatory obligations specified in D1641
- Suisun Marsh Plan (SMP)

Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement

- Control salinity for managed wetlands within the Marsh
- Improve Marsh wildlife habitat
- Recognize that landowners in the Marsh divert water for wildlife habitat management
- Revised SMPA was signed in 2005
 - Made channel water salinity requirements consistent with D1641
 - Landowner water and management activities in-lieu of additional large scale water management facilities

Water Rights Decision 1641

- Numerical salinity standards
- Narrative standards
 - Meeting salinity needs for all beneficial uses in the Marsh

Suisun Marsh Plan Objectives

- Preserve and enhance managed seasonal wetlands
- Implement a comprehensive levee protection/improvement program
- Protect Delta water quality
- Restore habitat for tidal marsh-dependent sensitive species
- Maintain consistency with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's strategic goals and objectives.

Suisun Marsh Plan PEIR/EIS

- Developing potential alternatives (currently)
- Assess environmental benefits, impacts and other trade-offs of potential alternatives
- Public Draft End of 2008

Participating Agencies

- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- California Department of Fish and Game (DFG)
- Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCDD)
- California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)
- San Francisco Bay-Delta Science Consortium (Bay-Delta Consortium)
- California Bay-Delta Authority (CBDA)
- CALFED Ecosystem Restoration, Levees, Drinking Water, and Science Programs
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)
- US Geological Survey (USGS)

Recent Achievements

- The SMP is a functioning collaborative that balances beneficial uses
- Favorable position for implementing plan while protecting beneficial uses
- Restored 70 acres of tidal marsh in 2007
- Shared knowledge base from extensive data collection, modeling and other studies

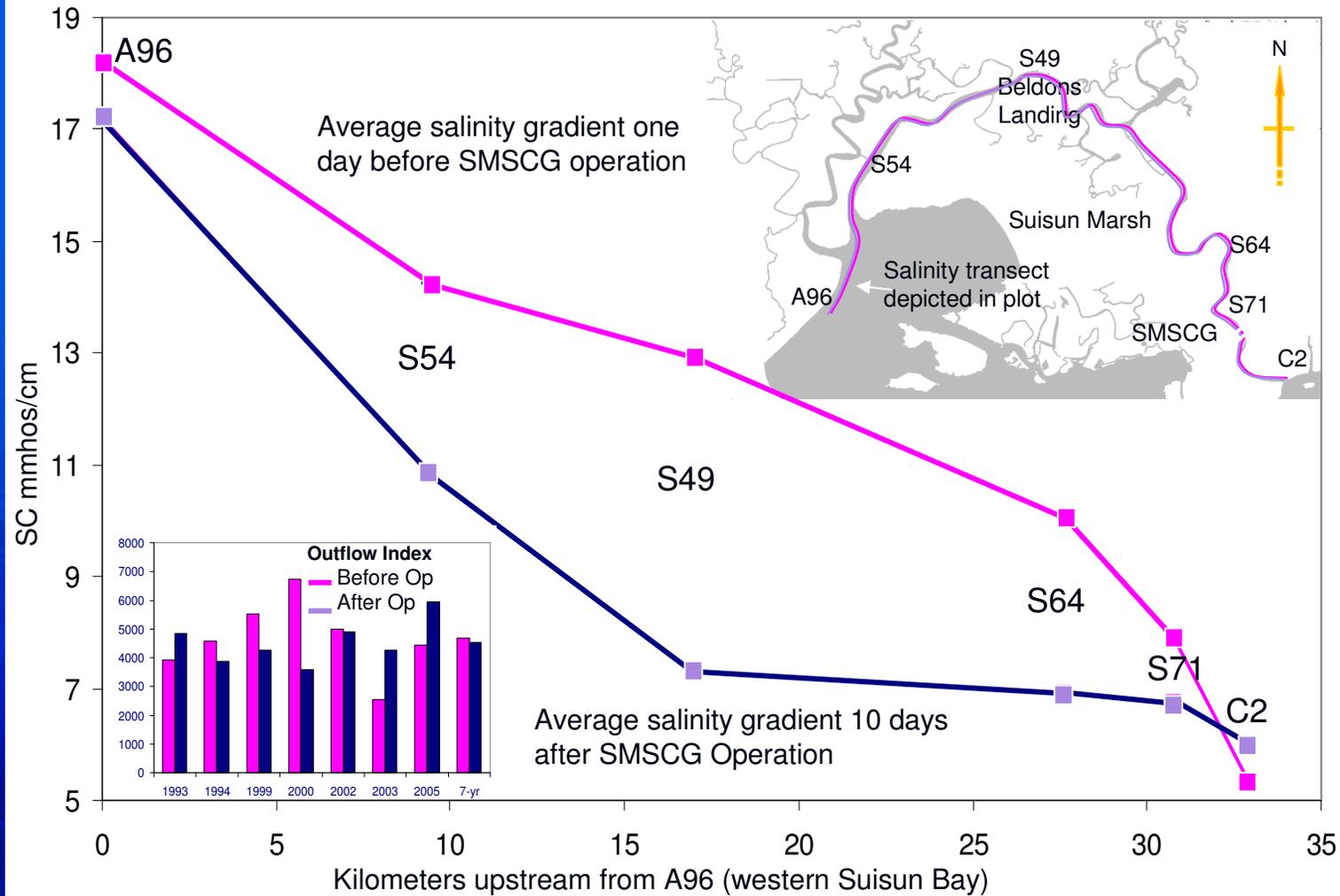
Further Opportunities

- Potential for other Delta initiatives to leverage opportunities in the Marsh
- Complete PEIS/EIR by end of 2009
- Expand shared knowledge base by monitoring recent restoration actions
- SWRCB staff continue to participate in planning and implementation

Questions?



SMSCG effect on Montezuma Slough



SMSCG effect on Suisun Bay

